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Dear, Sir or Madam

Certification as a surgical technologist provides evidence to employers, other health care professionals, and the public that the certified individual has met the national standard for the knowledge that underlies surgical technologist. Certified individuals demonstrate mastery of a broad range of knowledge of surgical procedures, aseptic technique, and patient care by successfully completing the surgical technologist certifying examinations.

Surgical technologists, also called scrubs, assist in surgical operations under the supervision of surgeons, or registered nurses. Surgical technologists are members of operating room teams, which most commonly include surgeons, anesthesiologists, and circulating nurses. Before an operation, surgical technologists help prepare the operating room by setting up surgical instruments and equipment, sterile drapes, and sterile solutions. They assemble both sterile and non sterile equipment, as well as adjust and check it to ensure it is working properly. Technologists also get patients ready for surgery by washing, shaving, and disinfecting incision sites. They transport patients to the operating room, help position them on the operating table, and cover them with sterile surgical "drapes." Technologists also observe patients' vital signs, check charts, and assist the surgical team with putting on sterile gowns and gloves.

During surgery, technologists pass instruments and other sterile supplies to surgeons and surgeon assistants. They may hold retractors, cut sutures, and help count sponges, needles, supplies, and instruments. Surgical technologists help prepare, care for, and dispose of specimens taken for laboratory analysis and help apply dressings. Some operate sterilizers, lights, or suction machines, and help operate diagnostic equipment.